THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 1986, passed by the Lok Sabha on 18th November, 1986 and by the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1986 and which was submitted to the President for assent on 19th December, 1986, is the only Bill to which the assent of the President is awaited.

(b) Information is being collected from the Ministries and Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prime Minister's meeting with Church Authorities in Kerala during his Election Tour

873. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports that while on an election tour to Kerala recently, the Prime Minister held a meeting in Raj Bhavan with Bishops and other Church authorities in the background of Christian votes;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard and how the Election Commission of India has rsponded thereto; and

(c) the follow-up action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Government's attention was drawn to a news item in a local daily wherein a reference had been made to the meeting between the Prime Minister and some Bishops of Kerala during his electioneering in that State.

The Election Commission forwarded the news item to the Cabinet Secretariat and asked for comments in order to consider the matter further. The clarification received by the Election Commission from the Cabinet Secretariat show that the Prime Minister had met a number of people during his visit to Trivandrum, including a delegation of Bishops; however, the Prime Minister had not said or done anything to infringe the Model Code of Conduct.

(c) Does not arise.

Elections in Haryana

874. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission of India has expressed its unhappiness over the elections in Haryana not being held in March, 1987 and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is the statutory obligation of the Election Commission to prepare and keep ready electoral rolls in various States; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to eliminate occassions of probability of similar unhappiness of the Election Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) According to a Press Release dated 4-2-1987, the Election Commission of India was not happy over the difficulties pointed out by the Haryana Government for not completing the revision of rolls according to schedule and therefore a further review had to be undertaken. Consequently, the Commission had to de-link the elections to the Haryana State Legislative Assembly from the elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and West Bengal. The Commission directed the C.E.O. Haryana to take remedial measures expeditiously.

(b) While, among other things, the direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for elections to Parliament and the Legislature of every State is vested in the Election Commission, the actual preparation and revision of the rolls has to be done in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 made thereunder by or through the machinery of the concerned State Government authorities as provided in the said Act and the rules. It may be mentioned that the revision of the electoral rolls may be a summary one or an intensive one and, under the law, the revision has necessarily to be made on the first day of the year. The processes involved in intensive revision, as was undertaken in the case of Haryana, include those relating to disposal of claims and objections as well as the appeals on the decision of such claims/objections. These are quasi-judicial proceedings. These processes, naturally take time since everything would depend upon the volume, number and nature of the claims and objections received.

(c) The Election Commission feels that the difficulties of the type which had arisen in the case of revision of rolls in Haryana would be minimised if the recommendations made by it with regard to the preparation, revision, correction and maintenance up-to-date of electoral rolls and the appointment of Chief Electoral officers (which form part of the electoral reforms) are implemented. The Government has agreed to take a view on the proposals for electoral reforms in consultation with the political parties.

Italian Collaborations

875. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries and other collaborations agreed to by the Government of India with Italian firms/concerns with which they were connected and their value; and

(b) how much worth of them have been completed/remained to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government has approved 27 foreign collaboration proposals with Italian firms during the period 1982 to 1986. Out of these, 30 proposals involved foreign equity amounting to Rs. 1518.60 lakhs.

(b) It generally takes two years or more for an approval for foreign collaboration to reach the stage of production. Follow up of the approvals and monitoring implementation thereof is the responsibility of the concerned Administrative Ministries. No centralised information is available in SIA regarding the number of projects completed.

Review of Policy Frame Work of Selected Industries

876. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any systematic review of the policy frame work of some selected industries in order to stimulate growth and modernisation as envisaged in the Budget proposals for 1987-88;

(b) if so, what are the details of the industries selected for the purpose; and

(c) the outcome of the review made by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The industries selected for the systematic review of the total policy framework are : Cement, Paper, Food